

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert in the first sentence after the title, the following new paragraph.

This application is the U.S. national phase of International Application PCT/EP2003/012233, filed November 3, 2003, claiming priority to European Patent Application 02080012.4 filed November 28, 2002, and the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/431,804, filed December 9, 2002; the disclosures of International Application PCT/EP2003/012233, European Patent Application 02080012.4 and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/431,804, each as filed, are incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 2 and ending at line 19, with the following paragraph.

According to a preferred method, the solid catalyst component can be prepared by reacting a titanium compound of formula $\text{Ti}(\text{OR})_n\text{X}_y$, where n is the valence of titanium and y is a number between 1 and n, preferably TiCl_4 , with a magnesium chloride deriving from an adduct of formula $\text{MgCl}_2 \cdot p\text{ROH}$, where p is a number between ~~0,1~~0.1 and 6, preferably from 2 to 3.5, and R is a hydrocarbon radical having 1-18 carbon atoms. The adduct can be suitably prepared in spherical form by mixing alcohol and magnesium chloride in the presence of an inert hydrocarbon immiscible with the adduct, operating under stirring conditions at the melting temperature of the adduct (100-130°C). Then, the emulsion is quickly quenched, thereby causing the solidification of the adduct in form of spherical particles. Examples of spherical adducts prepared according to this procedure are described in USP 4,399,054 and USP 4,469,648. The so obtained adduct can be directly reacted with the Ti compound or it can be previously subjected to thermal controlled dealcoholation (80-130°C) so as to obtain an adduct in which the number of moles of alcohol is generally lower than 3, preferably between ~~0,1 and 2,5~~0.1 and 2.5. The reaction with the Ti compound can be carried out by suspending the adduct (dealcoholated or as such) in cold TiCl_4 (generally 0°C); the mixture is heated up to 80-130°C and kept at this temperature for ~~0,5-20,5~~0.5-2 hours. The treatment with TiCl_4 can be carried out one or more times. The internal electron donor compound can be added during the treatment with TiCl_4 . The treatment with the electron donor compound can be repeated one or more times.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 23, and ending at line 27, with the following paragraph.

The solid catalyst components obtained according to the above method show a surface area (by B.E.T. method) generally between 20 and 500 m²/g and preferably between 50 and 400 m²/g, and a total porosity (by B.E.T. method) higher than ~~0,2~~0.2 cm³/g, preferably between ~~0,2 and 0,6~~0.2 and 0.6 cm³/g. The porosity (Hg method) due to pores with radius up to 10.000Å generally ranges from 0.3 to 1.5 cm³/g, preferably from 0.45 to 1 cm³/g.